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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, new Claims 16-20 are added. Thus, Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are the only independent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph due to the use of the term "outlet." Where appropriate, this term has been changed to refer to the —discharge outlet—. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the noted claim rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102(e):

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 6,426,507, hereinafter *Rangwalla*. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 recites a device for electron beam radiation of at least one side of a web. The claimed device includes a first chamber comprising a web inlet opening and a web outlet opening, and a second chamber inside the first chamber. The second chamber includes a web inlet opening and a web outlet opening, and is adapted to receive an electron beam emitter provided with an electron exit window through which electrons are emitted into the second chamber. The web outlet opening of the first chamber is configured to communicate with a gaseous fluid supply, and both the first and second chambers are in communication with an outlet. The supply and the outlet are configured to create a flow of the gaseous fluid through

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both the first and second chambers in a direction opposite the direction of travel of the web.

One difference between the device at issue here and the disclosure in *Rangwala* is that the device here includes first and second chambers, the second of which extends within the first. This arrangement is not embodied in the particle beam processing apparatus described in *Rangwala*. Indeed, *Rangwala* merely discloses a processing chamber 170 inside a protective lining 190. *Rangwala* also discloses a chamber 114 positioned above the processing chamber 170. However, there is no disclosure that one of the two chambers 114, 170 extends within the other as recited in Claim 12. Further, to make more clear the original claim language reciting first and second chambers, Claim 12 is amended to recite that the second chamber extends inside the first chamber in separated relation to the first chamber. This is not the case with the particle beam processing apparatus described in *Rangwala*.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the anticipatory rejection of Claim 12.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rangwala* in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,727,508, hereinafter *Tominaga*.

Independent Claims 1, 2, and 13-15 are amended, in a manner similar to Claim 12, to recite that the second chamber extends inside the first chamber in separated relation to the first chamber. As explained above, this claimed two chamber arrangement is not disclosed in *Rangwala*. Further, lacking disclosure of

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first and second chambers as claimed, it also cannot be said that *Rangwalla* discloses creating a gaseous fluid flow through first and second chambers in a direction opposite the direction of travel of the web as recited in various claims.

The Official Action relies upon *Tominaga* for disclosure of discharge pipes and differential pressure. However, this disclosure does not make up for the deficiencies in *Rangwalla* discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 13-15 is also respectfully requested.

New Claims 16-20 define additional aspects of the method and device at issue here that further distinguish over the disclosures in the applied references. In particular, the cited references do not disclose inner and outer housings that define the first and second chambers as claimed. These new dependent claims are thus further patentably distinguishable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

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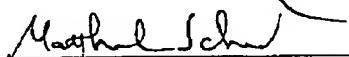
Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: February 4, 2008

By:

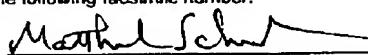


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